

EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2003 CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A.	Division:	INSTRUCTIONAL	Effective Date:		JANUARY 2003	3	
В.	Department / Program Area:	GEOGRAPHY FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	Revision	X	New Course		
			If Revision, Section(s)	L	F, M, N, O, P, Q	, R	
			Revised: Date of Previous Revisio Date of Current Revision	:	October 1986 September 2002		
C:	GEOG 130	D: HUMAN IMPAC	T ON THE ENVIRONME	NT	E: 3		
	Subject & Course	-	ptive Title		Semester Cred		
F:	Calendar Description: "Save the rainforest." "Cars are destroying the quality of our air." "We must learn to consume less and recycle more." Daily we are bombarded with news about "environmental crisis." Is our world spiraling into environmental disaster? Have environmental transformations been a constant component of the Earth? Are today's changes something different? These, and other questions, are a central concern of geography. This course is an introduction to the tradition in geography that studies the relationship between human activities and the physical environment. The central focus of this course is on human beings as agents of environmental change and consumers of global resources.						
G:	Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings: Lecture Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)		H: Course Prerequisites NONE	:			
			I: Course Corequisites: NONE				
			J: Course for which thi	s Cours	se is a Prerequisite		
	Lecture: 4 hrs. per week / semester Number of Weeks per Semester: 14		NONE				
			K: Maximum Class Size:				
			35				
L:	PLEASE INDIC	CATE:					
	Non-Credi	t					
	College Cr	redit Non-Transfer					
	X College Cı	redit Transfer:					
	SEE BC TRANS	SFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DE	ETAILS (<u>www.bccat.bc.ca</u>	<u>a</u>)			

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

- 1. Collect geographical data using library research and field work and display it in maps.
- 2. Describe some of the important natural systems that make up the larger world system.
- 3. Explain some basic ecological concepts (e.g. ecosystems, food chains).
- 4. Analyze human impacts on various aspects of the natural world.
- 5. Describe and explain both the antiquity of human intervention and the recent acceleration of rates of change.
- 6. Evaluate the extent and consequences of modern industrial, post-industrial and agricultural technologies on the Earth and its inhabitants.
- 7. Understand the relationship between environmental philosophies and attitudes on the one hand and actions on the other.

N: Course Content:

1. Introduction to the Course

- a) Natural and human-induced change
- b) Some examples of human transformation of the earth
- c) The human-environment tradition in Geography
- d) History of the expression of environmental concern

2. Understanding the Earth

- a) Matter and energy: basic building blocks
- b) Earth's life support system
- c) Roles of species in ecosystems
- d) Energy flows in ecosystems
- e) Matter cycling in ecosystems
- f) Terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
- g) Responses to environmental stress

3. Sources of Human Impact

- a) Growth of the human population
- b) Theories on the impact of global population growth
- c) Affluence
- d) Technology
- e) Political-economic organization
- f) Attitudes

4. Human Impacts on the Earth

- a) Biosphere
 - fire
 - extinctions in the past
 - biodiversity and extinctions
 - introductions, invasions, explosions
 - desertification
 - deforestation
 - wetland degradation
 - coral reefs
 - parks and park policy

Continued....

Course Content Cont'd.

4. Human Impacts on Earth Cont'd.

- b) Atmosphere
 - aerosols
 - albedo
 - forests
 - water diversion
 - acid precipitation
 - ozone depletion
 - enhanced greenhouse effect and global warming
 - local air quality issues

5. Hydrosphere

- a) Water pollution by agriculture
- b) Industrial water pollution
- c) Water regulation
- d) Fish stocks
- e) Stream modification
- f) Coastal transformation

6. Lithosphere

- a) Slope instability
- b) Mining industry
- c) Solid waste disposal
- d) Soil modification and degradation

7. Conclusion

- a) Environmental attitudes and actions
- b) Sustainable development
- c) Future trends

O: Methods of Instruction

The course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following:

- lectures
- small group discussions
- visual presentations slides and videos
- individual and team projects
- field assignments
- practical in-class exercises

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

Texts will be updated periodically. Typical examples are:

Middleton, Nick. (1999). The Global Casino 2nd ed. London: Arnold Publishers.

Q:	Means of Assessment Evaluation will be based on course objectives and will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific criteria during the first week of classes. An example of a possible evaluation scheme would be:					
	Field Assignments:	15%				
	Tests:	45%				
	Term Project:	20%				
	Participation:	10%				
R:	Prior Learning Asses	sment and Recognition: spe	ecify whether course is open for PLAR			
K:	_		· -			
K:	_	sment and Recognition: spenallenge exam to apply for recognitions.	· -			
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Cours	Students may take a ch		Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative			
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